



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 7, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz:

Section 19(c) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-355), codified as a note to 49 U.S.C. 1135, requires the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to submit an annual report to Congress on any pipeline safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during the prior year and to provide a copy of PHMSA's response for each recommendation. The attached report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

During calendar year 2024, NTSB issued two safety recommendations to PHMSA, both of which PHMSA concurred with. One recommendation was closed on October 9, 2024, while the other recommendation was implemented on March 25, 2025, through publication of an advisory bulletin, *Pipeline Safety Management System*,¹ in the Federal Register. We take our responsibility to address all NTSB recommendations seriously and will continue to work aggressively to close the outstanding recommendation regarding pipeline safety that was issued in 2024.

Please let me know if you require additional information, or have your staff contact Emily Wong, Director of Governmental, International, and Public Affairs, by phone at 202-366-4831 or by email at emily.wong@dot.gov.

¹ PHMSA, ADB-2025-01, *Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Safety Management System*. Advisory Bulletin (90 FR 13658; Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-04960/pipeline-safety-pipeline-safety-management-system>

The Honorable Ted Cruz

Page 2

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Kochman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Kochman
Acting Administrator

Enclosure



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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

May 7, 2025

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Cantwell:

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Acting Administrator

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May 7, 2025

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves:

Section 19(c) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-355), codified as a note to 49 U.S.C. 1135, requires the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to submit an annual report to Congress on any pipeline safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during the prior year and to provide a copy of PHMSA's response for each recommendation. The attached report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

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May 7, 2025

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Larsen:

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Acting Administrator

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May 7, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie:

Section 19(c) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-355), codified as a note to 49 U.S.C. 1135, requires the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to submit an annual report to Congress on any pipeline safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during the prior year and to provide a copy of PHMSA's response for each recommendation. The attached report is submitted in fulfillment of this requirement.

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May 7, 2025

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

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ANNUAL REPORT: NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD CALENDAR YEAR 2024 RECOMMENDATIONS ON PIPELINE SAFETY

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is fully committed to carrying out its pipeline safety oversight authority to improve safety and protect the environment while addressing all National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) safety recommendations.

PHMSA values the role of NTSB and our collective pipeline safety partnership. We believe the actions described below appropriately respond to and address the safety recommendations issued to PHMSA in calendar year 2024.

NTSB Safety Recommendation P-24-001

Audit Beta Offshore’s drug testing program to ensure compliance with post-accident drug testing regulations (MIR-24/01).

Response: PHMSA concurs with this safety recommendation.

From February 28 to March 22, 2024, PHMSA inspected the Beta Offshore (Beta) drug and alcohol (D&A) testing program for compliance with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 199, as well as compliance with the Department of Transportation’s testing procedures in 49 CFR Part 40, which are incorporated by reference in Part 199. As a result of the inspection, on October 25, 2024, PHMSA issued to Beta a Final Order citing two violations related to Beta’s failure to complete D&A tests post-accident in accordance with 49 CFR. § 199.105(b)(1) and § 199.225(a)(1), which Beta did not contest. PHMSA closed the case on November 1, 2024.

PHMSA requested NTSB close this safety recommendation on August 9, 2024. Through correspondence dated October 9, 2024, NTSB classified this safety recommendation as “Closed—Acceptable Action.”

NTSB Safety Recommendation P-24-002

Issue an advisory bulletin to all PHMSA-regulated pipeline owners and operators, promoting the benefits of pipeline safety management systems and asking them to develop and implement such a system based on American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 1173.

Response: PHMSA concurs with this safety recommendation.

PHMSA agrees with NTSB’s finding that “pipeline safety would be enhanced if pipeline companies implemented safety management systems.”¹ American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommend Practice (RP) 1173, *Pipeline Safety Management Systems* (API RP 1173), was developed by API in response to NTSB Safety Recommendation P-12-17.² PHMSA has long encouraged and supported voluntary implementation of pipeline safety management systems (PSMS) consistent with API RP 1173 across the pipeline industry.

¹ <https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MIR2401.pdf>

² <https://data.nts.gov/carol-main-public/sr-details/P-12-017>

PHMSA published an advisory bulletin, *Pipeline Safety Management System*,³ in the Federal Register on March 25, 2025. The advisory promotes the adoption of PSMS and encourages the development and implementation of PSMS based on a scalable framework that defines elements to identify, manage, and reduce risks throughout the pipeline life cycle, such as the one detailed in API RP 1173.

³ PHMSA, ADB-2025-01, *Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Safety Management System*. Advisory Bulletin (90 FR 13658; Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-04960/pipeline-safety-pipeline-safety-management-system>